Rally against cut in MBBS seats

By Our Correspondent

MULTAN, Dec 31: Students seeking admission to MBBS classes staged a demonstration in front of newspaper offices on Thursday in protest against reducing seats in medical colleges from 1,445 to 1,399.

They said some 1,445 seats had been declared for all the medical colleges, but the entry test results showed selection of 1,399 candidates which showed that the government had reduced the number of seats to oblige its favourites.

They said the chief minister had categorically stated that the quota system had been ended, but the bureaucracy had kept 46 seats reserved unlawfully.

The protesting students demanded a probe into the matter.

AWAM EXPRESS: The Karachi bound 14-down Awam Express narrowly escaped a major accident when coupling of the last bogie broke down due to a jerk.

According to details, as the Awam Express reached a level crossing of the industrial estate, the driver found it open and stopped the train. After getting a clearance, when the driver moved the train forward, the coupling of the last bogie broke down and the train moved forward leaving the bogie on the track. The guard immediately pulled emergency brakes.

Later the mechanical staff repaired the coupling.

PROBE ENDS: Muzaffargarh magistrate GM Riaz Khan has completed the judicial probe into manhandling of an assistant director public relations and a journalist by police.

In his report submitted to the deputy commissioner, the inquiry officer held ASI Allah Bakhsh Thaheem and two constables, Muzaffar Husain and Ghulam Husain, responsible for subjecting them to torture and keeping them in lock-up for two hours.

It may be recalled that ADPR Mumtaz Ahmad Khan and journalist Naeem Ahmad Baluch had gone to the city police station, Muzaffargarh, to ask about the arrest of Naeem's brother where the ASI misbehaved them. On their protest, the ASI and two constables gave them severe beating and locked them up.

They were got released by the Muzaffargarh deputy commissioner who also ordered an inquiry into the matter.

The Muzaffargarh SP has suspended the services of the three police officials and transferred them to the police lines.

Both the ADPR and the journalist were admitted to hospital.

A case was also registered against policemen.

FARM ENGINEERING: The Director-General (field), Agriculture, Punjab, has been accused of wasting funds to the tune of Rs 450 million allocated for the repair of 300 bulldozers.

The allegation was levelled at a joint meeting of all trade unions of the Agriculture department held here on Wednesday with Sohnay Khan in the chair.

The meeting said the amount was sufficient to purchase 135 new bulldozers but the DG got sanctioned funds of Rs 450 million for the repair of 300 bulldozers and purchased iron of Rs 400 million at the rate of Rs 90 per kg (while market rate was Rs 15) to manufacture chains of bulldozers.

They claimed that not a single chain had been manufactured as the 300 bulldozers were still idle.